

Table of contents

List of abbreviations	VII
Acknowledgements	IX
CHAPTER 1	
Introduction: Silence and concealment in (the study of) political discourse	1
CHAPTER 2	
Intention, expectation and relevance: Determinants of meaningful silence	13
2.1 The physical absence of speech	13
2.2 Making sense of the absence of speech	19
2.3 Context	33
2.4 Communicativeness of silence in political discourse	39
CHAPTER 3	
Empirical study of silence: A methodological proposal	43
3.1 Why metadiscourse?	47
3.2 What metadiscourse?	49
3.3 Critical discourse analysis of metadiscourse	56
CHAPTER 4	
Remaining silent and waiting until the dust settles: Helmut Kohl and the CDU party donation scandal	63
4.1 Overt refusal to reveal	64
4.2 Evasion	67
4.3 The meaning of silence: Claims and challenges	70
4.3.1 Not knowing about X	70
4.3.2 A question of honour	72
4.3.3 Right as a witness to remain silent	74
4.4 Expectations of speech	77
4.5 Taking expectations into account: Kohl emphasises his readiness to speak out	80
4.6 Conclusion: The extent of silence	82

CHAPTER 5

**Dangerous intelligence: The SPD's silence in the Barschel
and drawer scandals** 87

- 5.1 The meanings of silence 90
- 5.2 Expectations of speech 94
- 5.3 Claiming and challenging reasonable silence 98
- 5.4 Claiming and challenging guilty silence 104
- 5.5 Conclusion: Handling secrecy and revelation 109

CHAPTER 6

Hiding or highlighting: 'Dr Merkel's collected silences' 113

- 6.1 Dr Merkel's collected silences 115
- 6.2 Expectations of speech 123
- 6.3 Silence as rhetorical strategy 126
- 6.4 Silence as gendered rhetorical strategy? 131
- 6.5 Conclusion 134

CHAPTER 7

What needs to be said: And who cares 137

- 7.1 Democracy, transparency, publicity 137
- 7.2 Communicative culture 142
- 7.3 Who cares: Advocates of the demand to speak out 146
- 7.4 Democratic rituals and reinforced ideals 151

References 157

APPENDIX

**German originals of translated quotations
from primary sources** 173

Author index 197

Subject index 199